



1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, NJ 07030
www.hobokenmuseum.org :: 201-656-2240

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Abernathy
201-683-6935
melissa.abernathy@gmail.com

“Up and Down the River” Exhibit, Lecture Series Celebrate Hoboken’s Multifaceted Relationship with the Hudson

*Show Marking the Quadricentennial of Henry Hudson’s Discovery and
Bicentennial of Robert Fulton’s Steamboat Launch
Opens Sunday, March 1, 2 – 5 p.m.*

Upper Gallery Art Show, “hob’art’s Hoboken,” On View March 1 – April 12

Hoboken, N.J. – February 20, 2009 – In this young country’s history, there haven’t been many quadricentennials to celebrate. Join the Hoboken Historical Museum on **Sunday, March 1, for a free reception from 2 – 5 p.m.** to kick off our latest exhibition, ***Up and Down the River: A History of the Hudson, 1609 – 2009.***

A hundred years ago this fall, New York City threw a two-weeklong public celebration of a double anniversary: the tricentennial of Henry Hudson’s voyage up the river that now bears his name and the centennial (plus two) of Robert Fulton’s first successful steamboat crossing in 1807. One of the largest public anniversaries in the country’s history, offices and factories closed and the number of commuter trains doubled to handle the crowds for the banquets, parades, historical floats, theatrical performances, lectures, fireworks and an airplane flight by Wilbur Wright around the Statue of Liberty.

The Museum’s exhibit, made possible through a special project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, will extend through the end of the year to accommodate a full agenda of talks, events, educational programs and art celebrating our city’s relationship with the river that shaped its fortunes. The river has played many important roles in the life of the Mile Square City:

- Providing food and commerce to the area’s first inhabitants, the Lenni Lenape Indians;
- Connecting 19th century New Yorkers to Hoboken during its incarnation as the

“Elysian Fields” and home of the cup-winning yacht *America*;
Bringing to its piers the grand passenger ships from Europe and later a
bustling cargo trade, as depicted in the film “On the Waterfront”;
Inspiring groundbreaking maritime research at the Stevens Institute of
Technology; and,
Providing recreational activities along miles of New Jersey waterfront
walkway, thanks to the advocacy of citizen activists.

For the exhibition, the Museum commissioned an original mural of the outline of Hoboken’s waterfront along the length of the main wall, painted by local artist Ray Guzman. Items on display, including a scale model of a Hudson River tugboat by John Marinovich and memorabilia from the 1909 Hudson-Fulton celebration, come from the Museum’s own collections, as well as from the South Street Seaport Museum, Stevens Institute of Technology and the Bayonne Historical Society.

Speaker Series Opens with “Mr. Ocean Liner,” Bill Miller

Kicking off the speaker series on **Sunday, March 15, at 4 p.m.** is the popular author, speaker, and retired Hoboken teacher, **Bill Miller**, a recognized expert on the history of the great ocean liners. In his talk, **“The Gateway To The World—Our Harbor of NY and NJ,”** Miller will take visitors on a virtual cruise around New York Harbor and detail Hoboken’s history as a great port. Miller, who has authored more than 70 books on maritime subjects, grew up in Hoboken mesmerized by the glamorous cruise ships and hard-working tugboats alike, as well as the great structures spanning the river and lining its shores. He has taken more than 350 voyages: Atlantic crossings, tropical cruises, coastal runs and trips on cargo ships and exotic banana boats.

Known as Mr. Ocean Liner, Miller has published more than 1,000 articles for newspapers, magazines, nautical journals, and newsletters, and appeared in some three dozen television documentaries, in the U.S., Britain, Europe, and Australia. He has been chairman of the Port of New York Branch of the World Ship Society, serves on the selection committee for the American Maritime Hall of Fame, created the passenger ship database for the Ellis Island Museum, and currently serves as Curator of 20th Century Maritime History at Manhattan’s South Street Seaport Museum.

Stevens Team Aids in Rescue on the Hudson

Next in the speaker series is **Professor Alan Blumberg**, director of the Center for Maritime Systems at **Stevens Institute of Technology**, on **Sunday, April 5, at 4 p.m.** In a talk titled **“The Urban Ocean Observatory—Observations and Forecasting in the Hudson River,”** Dr. Blumberg will regale visitors with the thrilling tale of his group’s assistance in the rescue and salvage of USAir flight 1549, which landed on the Hudson just north of Hoboken on January 15.

Using Stevens’ New York Harbor Observing and Prediction System (NYHOPS), created in 2002 to provide real-time monitoring of ocean, weather, environmental, and vessel traffic conditions throughout the New York Harbor, Hudson-Raritan Estuary, Long Island Sound and the NY/NJ Atlantic Ocean shoreline regions, Blumberg and his team were able to guide the rescue operations to one of the few calm spots in the river, by the World Financial Center, where the plane could be safely stowed for a few days. Had the plane landed four hours later, he says, the tidal current would have pulled them north. In the days following the crash, Blumberg’s team provided around-the-clock on-call assistance to the various emergency agencies assisting with the salvage operations.

The system is also available to recreational and commercial users of the Hudson, according to Dr. Blumberg. NYHOPS’ website, www.stevens.edu/maritimeforecast/, is consulted by fishermen, kayakers, divers, sailors, and anyone who wants to know which direction and how strongly the currents are moving, how much traffic is plying the surface, and how the shifting mix of salt and freshwater might change the types of fish swimming underneath.

Stevens’ Legacy of Sailing Innovations

Future speakers in the series will cover topics such as the Lenni Lenape Indians, the Stevens family legacy, and Hoboken’s prominent place in the history of American sailing. The latter topic will be addressed by Stevens Institute of Technology professor Dr. Michael Bruno, Dean of the School of Engineering and Science, who will visit the Museum on **Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m.** His talk, **“A Sailing History of Hoboken”** will cover the Stevens family’s and the school’s contributions to sailing design, beginning with the yacht *America*, which won the British Hundred Guineas Cup in 1851, renaming the competition the America’s Cup; through the school’s cutting-edge research into boat design. Other speakers and dates are being arranged.

Group Art Show Opens March 1

Eight members of the cooperative gallery, hob’art, have contributed works that focus on Hoboken and reflect a personal view of the city for the Upper Gallery exhibit, **“hob’art’s Hoboken,”** which opens **Sunday, Mar. 1, with a reception from 2 – 5 p.m.** Admission is free. The public is invited to meet the artists and see their interpretations of Hoboken in photographs and other media, including painting on silk, which will be on display through April 12. The participating artists are Elizabeth Cohen, Tom Eagan, Femi Ford, Andrea Milo, Virginia Parrott, Roslyn Rose, Leona Seufert and Sissi Siska.

The artists will return for a **panel discussion** about their works on **Sunday, March 29, at 4 p.m.,** titled **“Art in a New Era.”** The group’s president, Elizabeth Cohen, will lead off with a brief statement about hob’art’s mission and aims for the immediate future, then each panelist will explain how he or she individually used both traditional techniques and

modern technology to capture an individual view of Hoboken.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum’s mission is to educate the public about Hoboken’s history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 7 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: Photos are available; please call 201-683-6935.